

## Farmers Around Elkhart Now Imbibe 'Book Larnin' From a Motorized Library

BY MAURICE M. FRINK.  
ELKHART, Ind., Nov. 5. — Not satisfied with merely making available to the world the literary product of Indiana's far-famed writers and poets, the Hoosier state now is setting the pace in carrying that product out over the highways and byways. Farmers nowadays are linked to the city by telephone, pavement and silver—and, in the latest instance, by the library wheel.

Forget your concept of the Elkhart county agriculturist as a home-spun-clad crotcheter, and picture him as he really is: See him dismount from his snorting tractor and stride across the field, and see Mrs. Farmer hang up the party line receiver, and see all the little Farmers come running from their games, to rather at the gate post and select their chosen reading from the close-packed shelves of the "book wagon" parked under the old elm tree beside the road.

This is no pastoral fancy. It is becoming a common sight on the highways hereabouts, since the progressive city libraries have established book service by motor to rural communities. Branch libraries in outlying districts have for some time been in operation in several localities, the sub-libraries being stocked with volumes transported from the main institution by automobile. Even Gas City, Ind.—a fitting nomenclature rival of Gopher Prairie, Minn.—has done this.

But in Elkhart this means of spreading literature among the so-called rustic masses has been advanced one more step by the establishment of regular routes, traversed at specified hours on certain days each week, with door-to-door visits at farmhouses where books are distributed free to all who ask them.

Farmers along the routes have learned to look for the library automobile much after the manner in which their city kin depend upon the milk or vegetable wagons from the country.

Books of all sorts are carried out into the country, but fiction, of course, is in the greatest demand. Many children's books are distributed daily. Requests for volumes on agriculture subjects are often made, and if the books asked for are not in the car when called for the obliging young women in charge note down the request and bring them out on their next trip.

The motor car used is constructed especially for library purposes and contains capacious shelves, on which the books are lined, backs out, as easily accessible to the broker with clay on his boots as they would be on the stacks in the library to the bank clerk who can go to his reading instead of having it come to him.

Routes over which the libraries travel have been laid out with the assistance of postal authorities so that the community is completely and efficiently covered. Appropriate names are of course bestowed on the library autos—they wanted to christen Elkhart's car "Parnassus" but that name was already taken so the next best appellation was chosen and the peasant book seekers hereabouts imbibe their literary culture from a rolling fount yeelp the "Pegasus."

Business men are watching the venture with interest. They foresee the time, if the experiment proves successful, when they will deliver their merchandise regularly over the same routes now being pioneered by the benzine book wagon.

## Lauders at Stephenson Home



Harry Lauder and Mrs. Lauder at the gateway to the cottage of Robert Louis Stevenson, at Saranac Lake, N. Y. It was there Stevenson died, a victim of tuberculosis. He wrote many of his famous novels there.

the benzine book wagon.

And the acclaim with which the rural readers have greeted the trials of Pegasus assure his permanence. If you doubt the farmer's sincerity in opening wide his gates to the motorized library, consider this one fact: Residents of four Elkhart county townships, outside

the ones in which the work is now being carried on today, are circulating petitions among themselves, in accordance with a state law, asking the county to levy and additional tax upon them to pay for automobile library service. When your Hoosier stubble-jumper asks to have his taxes increased, there is, as he would say, something goin' on.

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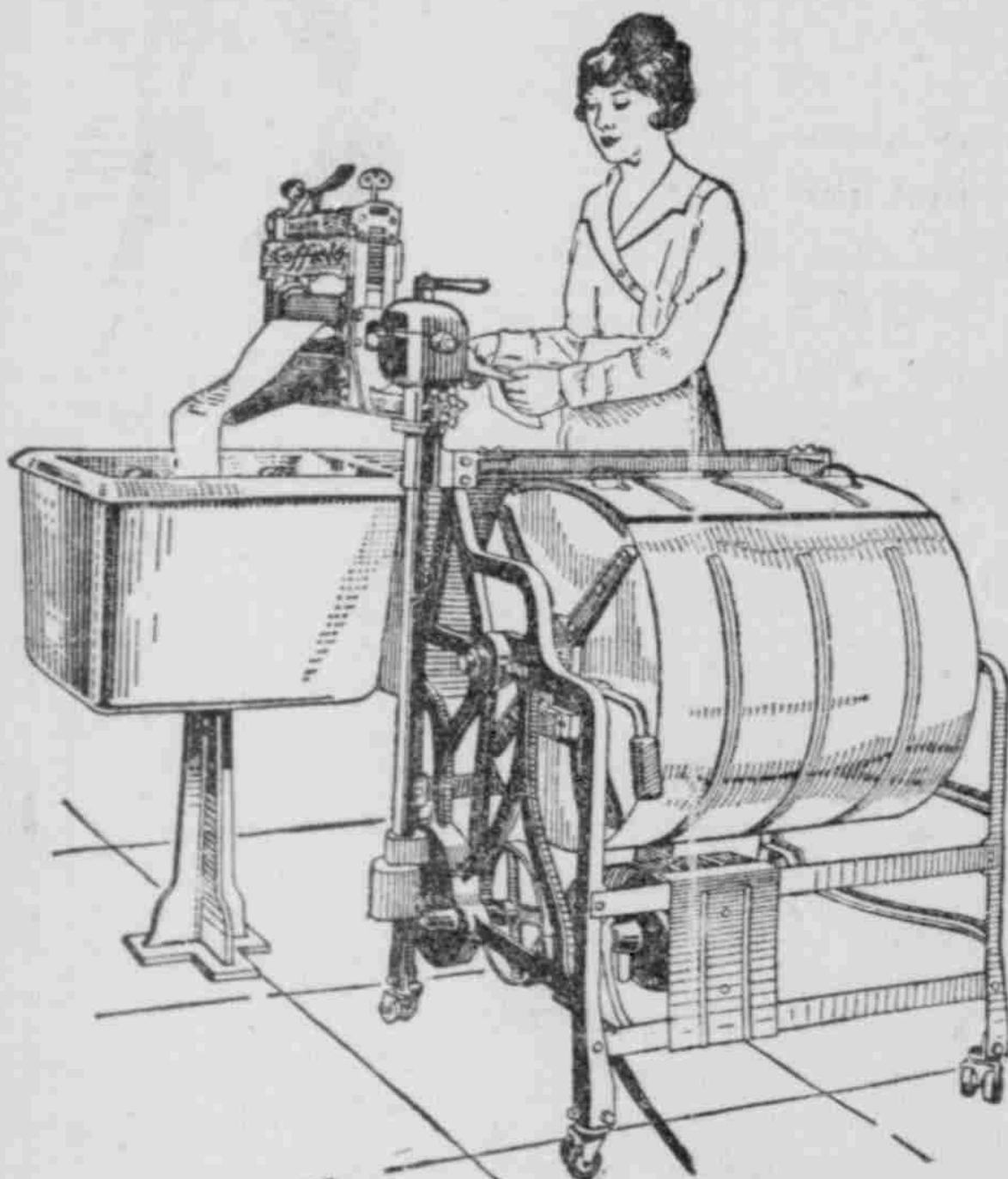
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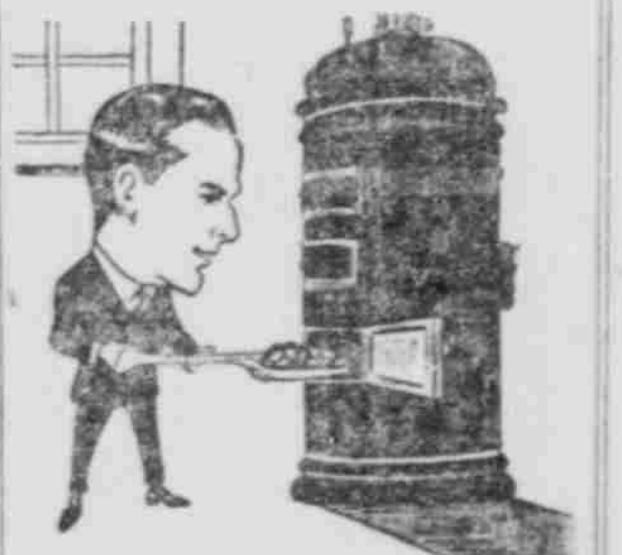
East Bound	West Bound	North Bound
25:05 a. m.	25:20 a. m.	25:15 a. m.
6:00 a. m.	8:00 a. m.	5:50 a. m.
7:30 a. m.	10:00 a. m.	7:30 a. m.
8:00 a. m.	12:00 noon	8:30 a. m.
9:00 a. m.	2:00 p. m.	9:00 a. m.
10:00 a. m.	4:15 p. m.	10:00 a. m.
11:00 a. m.	6:00 p. m.	11:00 a. m.
12:00 noon	8:00 p. m.	12:00 noon
1:00 p. m.	10:00 p. m.	1:00 p. m.
2:00 p. m.	11:00 p. m.	2:00 p. m.
3:00 p. m.		3:00 p. m.
4:00 p. m.		4:00 p. m.
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